

# Finance Committee Minutes

## April 11<sup>th</sup> 2013

The meeting was called to order at 7:04PM with Mr. David Herrick presiding, with Mr. Bill Hattendorf, Mr. Burt Imberman, Mr. Ira Yohalem and Mrs. Prudence Spaulding in attendance. Guests were Mr. Michael Skorput, Mr. Nathaniel Yohalem, and Ms. Tara White.

The minutes from April 3<sup>rd</sup> were distributed at 7:00PM and passed as amended Mr. Yohalem 1<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Hattendorf 2<sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously.

The Committee then began an extensive discussion about the fire truck an item which had been approved of at the last meeting. Because there had been no presentation about this item some of the questions that had been in the members minds were presented at this time. Mr. Herrick was most helpful in answering these questions. The fire truck that is being requested will replace a 24 year old ~~tanker~~ <sup>engine</sup> (the funds, for which its repair, had been granted and transferred from the Reserve Fund earlier in the year). This new fire truck will have a stainless steel body carry 1000 gallons of water (about 3 minutes when dealing with a house fire!) And have enough power to be able to go up Collins Hill at 45 miles per hour. Because of the terrain in New Marlborough the fire company judges that this amount of power is necessary. While this past year the present fire truck was only required to go out to two house fires in New Marlborough and three on mutual calls, the type and severity of fires is unpredictable. Mr. Herrick added that the repairs on the 24 year old truck were not repairs on the engine and so no estimate can be made of how serviceable this truck will continue to remain. He added that there were two types of fire trucks, a custom and a commercial. The custom has the stainless steel body and a cab that can carry four people and a lot of needed equipment. The commercial truck has a standard body with a tanker carrying the water. It was reputed that West Stockbridge had bought a much less expensive fire truck this year. However their land is much flatter than that in New Marlborough and they have a river running through their town providing much easier access to water to refuel their tanker! The item that the Finance Committee passed last week merely allows the town to search for a fire truck <sup>not more</sup> for less than \$560,000. The bids for the fire truck will be opened on Friday April 12<sup>th</sup> at 3:30PM, and the selectmen may decide to accept the bid or bids or refuse them. If the selectmen accept the bid the truck will go on the town warrant to be voted on at Town Meeting and then must be voted on by ballot a week later.

Mr. Herrick then circulated the draft of the Town Warrant. Mr. Nathaniel Yohalem stated that the total cost of the three bridges, (Clayton-Mill River Bridge, {\$450,000}, Campbell Falls Bridge {\$175,000} and the Norfolk Bridge {\$30,000} will be offered to the voters to approve under Article 32 where the town will be asked to raise, by borrowing the sum of \$680,000 to pay for the bridge repairs!

Prudence Spaulding  
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The members of the committee reviewed the Warrant Draft and passed it, Mr. Herrick 1<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Yohalem 2<sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously. Members were encouraged to review it again at their leisure this coming week.

Mr. Hattendorf then circulated the budget approvals for the fiscal year. \$5,134,799.39 has been approved over nine meetings beginning on November 29<sup>th</sup> 2012. And \$17,799.11 has been approved to be transferred from the Reserve fund to cover items this budgetary year. A total of \$810,185 has been approved for special articles and this does not include the cost of the bridges! The cost of the bridges would increase the total of the special articles to \$1,490,000!

Mr. Hattendorf then circulated a carefully worded cover letter for the form that he had designed to be circulated to the department heads. Once these forms are filled out and returned to the Finance Committee a five year plan of anticipated capital expenses will be able to be formulated and shared with the selectmen. Such planning, although not "Written in Stone", will allow the treasurer to plan on how to borrow money most effectively!

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10PM with no further meeting planned.

Respectfully submitted,

Prudence Spaulding, Secretary.

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